

Machias Revitalization Committee
Friday, July 13, 2018 7:00
Bluebird Restaurant

Present: Bob Berta, Angela Fochesato, Marci Gaglioni, Katherine Holmes, Jim Jackson, Bill Kitchen, Sandi Malagara, Melissa Moffett, Gail Peters, Joshua Rolfe, Christina Therrien and Jim Whalen.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved by vote of all present.

Waterfront: Christina reported on the June 27th meeting. The minutes from that meeting have been sent out by e-mail. This was the first of two meetings. Christina reported the progress to date. Details can be found in the minutes of that meeting. There are currently three groups working on the grant. Judy East is working on the historical aspects. Dan Bannon from Barker Designs is the engineer. Tora Johnson is studying the environmental impact and a general concept for the project. It is anticipated the second meeting will be held in September. A review of the designs will be the subject of that meeting. Christina also explained the necessary coordination with MDOT including the causeway.

Cleaning and Clearing of the Trail: Angela explained the Riverwalk is on hold until Public Works is done the storm drain project. Lindsey McMahon is prepared to do the clearing and has received guidance from Betsy Fitzgerald. Explanation of sewer project impact ensued. The sewer line was very near a house at that location. The route had to be re-routed and trees cut down. The old fireplace at the park was saved. It would be necessary to relocate the steps into the park. However, if fill is added to taper the ground, this would eliminate the need for steps. While doing this work, it is necessary to remember to keep the location handicap accessible. The town is hurrying to put down seed in the park. It is hoped that the trees that were removed can be replaced. However, the ledge at that location might present a problem.

Dog Park: Interest in creating a dog park has resurfaced among some local residents. Katherine expressed the need to form a committee. Previously, a dog park at Middle River was turned down by the board of the Downeast Coastal Conservancy. It has been a year since that request. Katherine is hopeful with a new director and members of the board, DCC may be willing to reconsider the request as this would be the best location. She will resubmit this request. However, work needs to be done to develop a full plan to present to them. Tora Johnson and students helped initially with this project. Tora said there is a list of students who would be willing to help with this effort.

Main Street Transformation: Angela will be working with Anne Ball or her representative from the National Main Street Center to present some ideas regarding our own transformation. She will share the results of their meetings with the Revitalization Committee and all others where appropriate.

History Tours: The recording is in progress as well as the QR coding. Tora has produced maps. Betsy Fitzgerald has contributed her portion of the project as well.

Banners: The banners that have been seen recently have been erected by the town. Money was donated for them as a result of the Revitalization Committee. Angela has continued to speak to Dan Gardner regarding his efforts in this project. He has some concepts developed. He currently has a conflict with the MRC meeting which he hopes will be resolved with the new head of campus coming in August.

Next month the new Head of Campus for UMM will be taking his position at the college. Christina has reached out to him in an effort to unite the community and campus. It was suggested that UMM gear such as water bottles and t-shirts be available for sale in local businesses in support of the college.

The question was raised about items that celebrate the town of Machias. It was recommended that these items be designed with our local history in mind. The name Bad Little Falls is appealing. Expressions does have some magnets available; however, it is believed we could capitalize on this unique name and history using it on ball caps, shirts, water bottles etc. In addition, the town does have a logo that can be used. It was further suggested we have retro t-shirts that say I am a graduate of the Normal School, UMM's previous name and status.

Paintings on Main Street: This an on-going project. The mural independently erected by Sandi Bryant is very attractive. As always, the MRC needs to seek funding to produce these murals.

Green Space Committee: The grant requirements were completed by June 30th. The inspection by Jan Santerre took place on July 10th. Jan was presented with the final written report and will file it with the grant committee after reviewing for details and correctness. Gail Peters and Katherine Holmes met with Jan to visit each site and review our work. Jan will submit a report to the committee on her findings and recommendations.

To date it has been necessary to replace the hydrangea along Route One in front of Bluebird and the two trees destroyed by the beaver last winter at the Water Street parking lot. Sandi was disappointed that the nursery did not advise us that planting hydrangea in the fall is not the best time. Sandi has taken responsibility for watering every day all the hydrangea replacements. Sandi stressed the need to take good care of all the plantings over the next two years as we are required to have a 90% alive success rate to be awarded the full amount of the grant.

Sandi and Christina praised Public Works for their outstanding help with this project. It could not have been done without them

Comments were made regarding the triangle at the intersection of Route One and One A. Thanks to Dean McGuire of McGuire Services and Po Gray of We Dig It. They supplied the initial plants and work to bring it to full glory. It is estimated that the plants and labor contribution could have been as much as \$500. Sandi Malagara and others have been weeding the area to keep it attractive. Thank you! More help is needed in this

effort. Angela will send thank you notes to Dean and Po and research potential newspaper coverage.

Airport: The runway reconstruction is scheduled for roughly the first week of August. Unfortunately, the airport will be closed for the Blueberry Festival. There will be an Open House at the airport on July 21st during the Sea & Sky Festival. There will be various aircraft there. Helicopter rides will be available for a fee. It is the helicopters from Bar Harbor airport that will be operating this. You will fly from the airport to Helen's. The price is \$54 per person. In order for the flight to occur, three people must ride together to make it profitable for the company. Sign ups are that day. It will be possible to reserve a time for the trip.

Sea & Sky Festival: The event is scheduled for next weekend July 21st and 22nd. There will be events for children including a fun run and kite flying at the Middle River Park. The cancelled April Easter Egg Hunt will take place. Laser tag will be \$5 per game and \$8 for two games. The music at the event is free. There are various other events promising to have something for everyone. The festival committee has limited the number of food vendors hoping festival attendees will patronize local eateries as well. Maps of the businesses in town will be distributed to promote all of them. Great advertising efforts have been made as Bop McCollum a Rotarian attended a Rotary meeting in Bangor to highlight the festival and ask for support. The festival is sponsored by the Machias Rotary and Bill Burke of Pat's Pizza.

Cemetery Revitalization: The next clean up is Saturday, July 11th from 9 to 11. Jim has seen a picture of the cemetery which showed the fence and the original sign which said 1774 to 1902. During the process of restoration, more headstones have been found. Jim Jackson proposed the unmarked graves have generic headstones. It is believed Reverend James Lyons is buried there. In addition, there is an eye witness to the hanging of Major Andrea. Jim continues to seek out old photos to assist in the restoration. Thanks to Michael Hoyt for sharing his collection.

The next part of the project is the fence. Also, Mike Shoppee of Public Works recently attended a workshop on cleaning old headstones. Thanks were expressed to Jim and his Rotary crew et al for working on this effort. In addition, thanks go to Public Works.

Announcement: Angela reminded us there is no meeting in August. Next meeting is September 14th.

Signage: The meeting continued with a discussion of signage and color schemes for the town. Two years ago, Nancy Mirman who is a designer presented the committee with three color palettes and sign shapes. That document was found in the secretary's notes. It was shown by Christina. She or Angela will make copies and send out to the current committee members.

There are several locations in town where new signs are needed. It would be aesthetically prudent of the town and MRC to promote the colors and shapes presented in Nancy's report. The suggested shape might be achieved with the Bad Little Falls sign with a molding painted in one of the suggested colors. Following Nancy's color and

shape suggestions would add uniformity and thereby recognition to the signs in town. The colors would also be seen as historically accurate. Christina will present this to the selectmen.

Motion made to adjourn by Sandi Malagara and seconded by Josh Rolfe. All agreed.

Respectfully,
Gail J. Peters

Regards,
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